

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-6-01

February 9, 2001

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code, as it pertains to boiler room and furnace room doors.

Question: Does the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code require doors to and from boiler rooms and furnace rooms to swing inward, into the boiler or furnace room?

Answer: No. Table 302.1.1 of the referenced code provides separation and/or protection requirements for boiler and furnace rooms in specific occupancy areas, and Table 717.1 establishes the opening protective fire protection rating for doors to such spaces, but the code does not provide language requiring that the doors open into the boiler or furnace room. Section 1017.2, at exception 2, requires two "egress doorways" suggests that the ability to exit the boiler or furnace room is the important factor, and that it would be desirable for the door to open in the direction of egress travel, although the code does not specify that requirement.